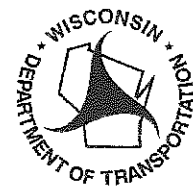


**Wisconsin Department of Transportation**  
Office of the Secretary  
4822 Madison Yards Way, S903  
Madison, WI 53705

Governor Scott Walker  
Secretary Dave Ross  
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June 15, 2018

The Honorable Don Vruwink  
Wisconsin State Representative  
P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Representative Vruwink:

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the I-39/90 Expansion Project, between Madison and Beloit.

As you are aware, the I-39/90 project is currently reconstructing and expanding the Interstate in Dane and Rock counties. The completion of the Interstate expansion project in late 2021 will provide a safer and more efficient gateway to Wisconsin.

Thank you for making note of the recent speed limit reduction to 55 mph. In addition to this change, the Wisconsin State Patrol has notified the public of increased surveillance efforts to enhance safety in the construction zone. This includes additional troopers patrolling the corridor and conducting aerial enforcements to enforce speed limits and other traffic laws.

Throughout the construction zone, we strive to maintain two lanes open in each direction on the Interstate during daytime and weekend hours due to the higher traffic volumes. In order to keep traffic flowing while maintaining a safe work zone for crews, it was necessary to separate motorists from the active construction work using a barrier wall while all traffic was shifted onto one side of the Interstate. Depending on the location, crews will remove outside barrier wall when feasible after certain construction operations. This bi-directional configuration separates northbound and southbound traffic with a median barrier wall.

Safety has been a core consideration from the onset of this project. Project staff have been coordinating with emergency services and the Wisconsin State Patrol throughout the design and public outreach phases prior to any construction on the Interstate. There are currently 18 emergency vehicle pull-outs, in addition to the 22 access points via the interchange off ramps, provided throughout the work zones for motorists to use during construction.

As a result of the coordination with first responders, 29 temporary emergency access points are located throughout the work zone. In addition, there are 11 steel barrier median gates, and 11 emergency access points through gates in the barrier wall that separates the traveling public from the work zone. The outreach strategy continues to be extensive and proactive.

In addition, WisDOT teamed with State Farm to launch the Wisconsin DOT State Farm Safety Patrol. These trucks make regular patrols along the I-39/90 corridor and offer free, limited roadside assistance for disabled vehicles.

The department reviewed the recent incidents on I-39/90 and found that the crashes were often caused by vehicles following too close and inattentive driving, a problem found in all our work zones in the state.

We appreciate your continued support of the I-39/90 Expansion Project, and your efforts to keep the public informed and involved. Please contact me or I-39/90 Project Chief John Vesperman with any further I-39/90 project questions at [john.vesperman@dot.wi.gov](mailto:john.vesperman@dot.wi.gov) or (608) 884-1221.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Dave Ross", with a stylized, sweeping underline.

Dave Ross  
Secretary